

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-08 FCC-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 L-03
DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /071 W
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R 170930Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5692
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02929

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, UR, UK, FR, US
SUBJECT: FRG REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN TELECOMMUNICATION
INTERESTS ABROAD: ALLIED MILITARY
STATIONS

REFS: (A) USBER 477; (B) STATE 27955; (C) BONN 17981
(76); (D) BONN 17714 (76)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GDR HAS NOW APPROACHED ALL THREE
ALLIES ON MATTERS RELATING TO TELEVISION CHANNEL
FREQUENCIES OF ALLIED MILITARY STATIONS IN BERLIN. IN
ALL THREE INSTANCES, THE GDR HAS BEEN REBUFFED. WE
BELIEVE THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE GDR IN THESE
EFFORTS IS TO UNDERCUT THE ROLE OF THE FRG REPRESENTING
BERLIN INTERESTS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND, THEREFORE,
WE MUST CONTINUE TO REJECT GDR EFFORTS TO ENTER INTO A
DIALOGUE WITH THE ALLIES ON THE SUBJECT. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE GDR HAS NOW ATTEMPTED TO APPROACH ALL THREE
ALLIES CONCERNING MATTERS RELATED IN ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER TO THE ALLOCATION OF TELEVISION CHANNEL
FREQUENCIES OF ALLIED MILITARY BROADCAST STATIONS
IN WEST BERLIN.

2. THE GDR APPROACH TO THE FRENCH OCCURRED LAST

OCTOBER IN EAST BERLIN AS A RESULT OF THE FRENCH REQUEST THROUGH FRG INTERMEDIARIES FOR RESERVATION OF A CHANNEL FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE USE BY FRENCH MILITARY AUTHORITIES (REPORTED IN REFS C AND D).

3. THE GDR APPROACH TO THE US IS NOTED IN REF (B). WE INFORMED THE BONN GROUP ON FEBRUARY 15 OF THE GDR ACTION.

4. THE GDR APPROACH TO THE BRITISH IS SOMEWHAT MORE INVOLVED. AS REPORTED IN BONN GROUP ON NOVEMBER 9, 1976, THE BRITISH MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN BERLIN REQUESTED THE FRG TO ARRANGE FOR THE RESERVATION OF CHANNEL 47 FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE USE. THE FRG POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED THE COMPETENT GDR AND POLISH AUTHORITIES OF THE REQUEST.

5. ALTHOUGH NO GDR REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE FRG, THE POLES RESPONDED THAT THE FRG ON THE BASIS OF THE QA WAS NOT COMPETENT TO ACT IN MATTERS CONCERNING SECURITY AND STATUS. THE DRAFTING OF AN FRG REPLY TO THE POLES HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS DISCOVERED THAT THE 1961 STOCKHOLM CONVENTION WHEN RATIFIED BY THE FRG WAS NEVER EXTENDED TO BERLIN, APPARENTLY DUE TO "A CLERICAL ERROR."

6. IN THE MEANTIME, UK REP (HITCH) INFORMED THE BONN GROUP ON JANUARY 17 THAT THE GDR HAD BROUGHT THE MATTER UP IN LONDON. ACCORDING TO HITCH, GDR COUNSELOR
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SCHIEFFERDECKER HAD BEEN IN TO SEE GOODALL AT THE FCO, SAYING THAT THE GDR HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE FRG OF THE BRITISH REQUEST AND COULD NOT AGREE TO IT. SCHIEFFERDECKER ATTEMPTED TO GIVE GOODALL A LETTER WHICH GOODALL REFUSED TO ACCEPT. LATER, SCHIEFFERDECKER RETURNED WITH A SECOND LETTER WHICH GOODALL ALSO REFUSED. THE BRITISH PRESSED THE FRG IN THE BONN GROUP TO COME UP WITH A REPLY TO THE POLES SO THEY THEMSELVES WOULD HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT TO SAY TO THE GDR IN LONDON IF NEED BE.

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7. IN FEBRUARY 15 BONN GROUP MEETING THE FRG PASSED AROUND COPIES OF THEIR PROPOSED REPLY TO THE POLISH STATEMENT. THE FRG DRAFT REPLY POINTS OUT THAT THE ALLIES AUTHORIZED THE FRG TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF BERLIN ABROAD IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS MATTERS AND THAT IN THAT REGARD, THE ITU 1959 (GENEVA) CONVENTION AND 1965 (MONTREUX) CONVENTION WERE EXTENDED TO BERLIN. THE REPLY CONTINUES THAT THE ALLIES HAVE SEEN TO IT THAT MATTERS OF SECURITY AND STATUS ARE NOT AFFECTED THEREBY. (AS EXPRESSED BY HITCH, THE LETTER REPRESENTS AN INGENIOUS EFFORT AT FUZZING THE FACT THAT THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION HAS NOT BEEN EXTENDED TO BERLIN.)

8. COMMENT: WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH USBER (PARA 3, REF A) THAT THE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED ARE RELATIVELY INCONSEQUENTIAL IN ALL THESE
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CASES AND THAT THE REAL GDR PURPOSE IS TO DRAW THE ALLIES INTO DIRECT TALKS ON FREQUENCY MATTERS INVOLVING ALLIED MILITARY STATIONS IN BERLIN, THUS UNDERCUTTING THE FRG'S ROLE IN REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF BERLIN ABROAD IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AFFAIRS.

9. AN APPARENT AND, IN OUR VIEW, FALLACIOUS SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR THE ALLIES TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE GDR IN THAT RATHER RESTRICTED AREA. HITCH INFORMED US TRIPARTITELY THAT UKBER HAD RECOMMENDED THAT SOLUTION TO LONDON AND THAT LONDON HAD REJECTED IT. WE AGREE THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN REPRESENTING THEIR OWN INTERESTS INTERNATIONALLY EVEN THOUGH THIS IS AN AREA WHICH, STRICTLY SPEAKING, TOUCHES ON RESERVED ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. ASIDE FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS THE FRG WHICH HAS EXTENDED THE RELEVANT ITU CONVENTIONS (OR MOST OF THEM) TO BERLIN AND WHICH REPRESENTS BERLIN INTERESTS AT INTERNATIONAL ITU CONFERENCES, ALLIED ENTRY INTO THE ARENA ON BEHALF OF THE MILITARY STATIONS WOULD LEAVE THE STRICTLY GERMAN INTERESTS (SFB) VERY VULNERABLE.

10. WHILE WE CAN EXPECT TO HEAR MORE FROM THE GDR ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE FUTURE, WE BELIEVE THE COURSE ALL THREE ALLIES HAVE FOLLOWED OF REFUSING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE GDR REMAINS THE ONLY LOGICAL ONE. MEANWHILE, WE WILL AS USBER SUGGESTED SEEK FRG VIEWS ON WHETHER THERE MAY BE AN INTERFERENCE PROBLEM FOR AFN FROM THE EBERSWALDE TRANSMITTER.
STOESSEL

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